

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

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AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 29412

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, EEC, FR

SUBJECT: VIEWS OF ELYSEE OFFICIAL ON ENERGY AT EC AND
MARTINIQUE SUMMITS

REF: A: PARIS 29233; B: 29107

1. IN A CONVERSATION WITH ECON/COM MIN, DUTET, ECONOMIC
ADVISOR TO GISCARD, EXPRESSED VIEWS ON ENERGY IN THE EC
SUMMIT SIMILAR TO THOSE OF CABOUAT REPORTED REF A. HE
SAID GOF THOUGHT PRINCIPAL SUMMIT FOCUS ON ENERGY SHOULD
BE ON INTERNAL OR EC ENERGY POLICY. HE DID NOT CONSIDER
THAT THE SUMMIT WAS THE RIGHT PLACE FOR MAJOR AGREEMENTS
ON INTERNATIONAL ENERGY POLICY. THE FRENCH WOULD
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OBVIOUSLY BRING UP GISCARD'S PROPOSAL FOR A TRIPARTITE

CONFERENCE AND WOULD BE HAPPY IF THE OTHERS ENDORSED THIS PROPOSAL. THEY WOULD NOT EXPECT THIS, HOWEVER, AND WOULD NOT BE PUSHING IT VERY HARD. AT THE SAME TIME, THEY WERE NOT PREPARED TO DISCUSS FRANCE'S RELATIONS WITH THE IEA AT THE EC SUMMIT, CONSIDERING THAT THIS WAS NOT AN APPROPRIATE SUBJECT FOR DISCUSSION THERE. FRANCE WAS PREPARED TO DISCUSS CONCERTATION OF CONSUMER POSITIONS, BUT IN THE OECD RATHER THAN IN THE EC.

2. TURNING TO THE MARTINIQUE SUMMIT, DUTET SAID FRENCH WELCOMED OPPORTUNITY FOR BETTER UNDERSTANDING BY EACH SIDE OF OTHER'S POSITION ON ENERGY PROBLEMS. HE SAID THERE WAS A LARGE MEASURE OF IDENTITY BETWEEN U.S. AND FRENCH POSITIONS, WITH PRINCIPAL DIFFERENCE RELATING TO TIMING OF DIALOGUE WITH PRODUCERS. HE SAID THE FRENCH HOPED A WAY COULD BE FOUND TO RECONCILE THESE DIFFERENCES.

3. ECON/COM MIN MENTIONED INACCURATE REPORTING-FRENCH PRESS OF U.S. THINKING ON POSSIBLE WAYS TO DEAL WITH PROBLEM OF DOWNSIDE INVESTMENT RISK
-- SEE REF B), DRAWING ON
ANALYSIS IN OUR PROPOSED WORK PROGRAM FOR LONG-TERM COOPERATION IN IEA. DUTET SAID HE HAD NOT BEEN MISLED BY FRENCH PRESS ACCOUNTS. HE WAS FULLY AWARE THAT WE WERE NOT TALKING ABOUT THE MAINTENANCE OF A HIGH WORLD PRICE FOR CRUDE, AS SERVAN-SHREIBER HAD ALLEGED, BUT RATHER A TWO-TIER PRICE SYSTEM. DUTET SAID THAT WHILE HE UNDERSTOOD THE RATIONALE FOR SUCH AN IDEA, AND INDEED FOUND IT NOT AN UNREASONABLE APPROACH TO THE PROBLEM, HE HOPED WE WOULD NOT TALK ABOUT IT TOO OPENLY SINCE IT COULD EASILY BE SEIZED ON BY THE PRODUCERS AS A PRETEXT FOR KEEPING PRICES HIGH.
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